



Dunamis Fellowship Canada

*Mobilizing, Equipping and Sending Holy Spirit Empowered
Leaders for Church Renewal and Missions*



Volume 4
March 2008

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Isaiah 59:21 RSV

As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and for ever."

Isaiah 60:21, 22 RSV

"Thy people also shall be all righteous; they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation; I the Lord will hasten it in his time."

I love promises like these that God has given regarding His Word going out to the nations through the people He has called. Any time I pick up materials from PRMI to read, they reinforce the vision of the Dunamis Fellowship being to equip us for expanding the Kingdom of God as it touches us in our own churches, in the Dunamis Fellowship in our region, and as it expands out into other areas of the world. We long to see Dunamis Fellowship Canada as part of this expansion of God's Kingdom, but need those who are being called by God to come alongside us from coast to coast if we are to share this vision in a broader way.

We are part of a long history and large (great) number of people working to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations. There is nothing new about it; yet it is always new. It is God's ongoing passion to redeem and restore to Himself those who are lost. Having this passion instilled in us by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit moves us to things not otherwise possible. And it moves us to hope that in God they are possible.

I am saddened to think that the things of the Spirit are so often perceived as no more than the over-excitement of some eccentric people in an ongoing cry of 'more, more, more.' For me, the greatest gifts the Spirit has given me so often involved a form of dying to self. My faith, which still feels so small, has only increased as it was stretched by longing. Love increased in the often painful fires of difficulty I, and my family, have faced. Looking and waiting for the promised hope; this too is part of the wonder of life in the Spirit.

As I grow, I have asked myself some difficult questions. How do you convey the beauty of living sacrifice to someone? How do you convey the loveliness of this fellowship of God? To want the things of the Spirit for the glory of God the Father, as Christ did, as we are called to?

I long to see the fire of the Spirit ignite our hearts and call us forward to what He longs to do across Canada, but I know that it is a call that requires us to lay down our lives in obedience to God's direction and for His Glory. My prayer is that we will have the willingness to do it. And I hope that you consider lifting us in prayer that we may have the strength and awareness of our weaknesses necessary to this task. I also ask for prayers for those God is equipping now who will be called to step out – in their homes, their churches, and communities – to live out what God is giving, to equip others also to walk in the Spirit.

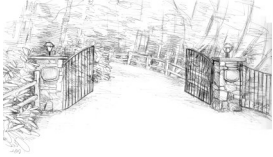
We again ask you to:

1. Participate in the move of the Spirit where you are.
2. Support DFC/PRMI financially as God leads.
3. Pray for us.
4. Share in the ongoing work of the Dunamis Fellowship.



Sandy Bassie, Board Trustee, Dunamis Fellowship Canada

FAMILY WEEK AT THE COMMUNITY OF THE CROSS



We made our first trip to the Community of the Cross in 2005. It was a difficult year with one of our teenage sons, and we were finding it hard to talk about what we were experiencing. Asking to commit to a week together in an unknown program so far from home was not the most logical suggestion, but when my husband asked what I wanted to do that summer vacation, I took the risk and asked, "Do you really want to know? The thing I would love the most would be to go to Family Camp at the Community of the Cross."

I fully expected John to say, "No!" and was shocked when he agreed to me contacting them. At that point, I had participated in three Dunamis weekends in Burlington, Ontario and two Dunamis Courses through my church. But it wasn't yet something we were doing as a family. Then, I was afraid PRMI would say "No" when I told them our one son was deaf and autistic.. Instead, they said "Absolutely! We'd love to have you; of course you can all come."

I was very nervous about this trip's potential for disaster: four people crammed into a pickup truck for eighteen hours, my family's tentative interest in the program, and Jacob's communication needs. Two weeks before we left, I was praying hard, but still worrying about whether we should back out. I was concerned, especially about how Jacob's deafness would fit into the week. But God kept saying, "Go. It's okay." Later, when a friend asked me, "When did you know for sure you were going?" I told her, "Not until we actually walked through the gate."

At that moment, the Community of the Cross became a part of our lives. Over and over, in the smallest details, God has impressed on me His care and compassion for us, and reminded me His desire to draw us into His presence so exceeds anything I can hope for that it's hard for me to understand or describe it. That week, one special moment came for me as we gathered on the porch for tea and introductions. Mary Ellen Connors, asked if she could introduce me to someone and, with what has become familiar PRMI concern for 'asking permission' said, "If it's okay with you, and you think it would be helpful – and please feel free to say 'no' – this is Annie, and she's an ASL interpreter. We wondered if she could help with Jacob this week." I said, "Yes" and "Thank you so much!" I wanted to burst into tears, because in that moment I heard God saying, "See how very much I love you." It was a moment of promise and trust where God revealed His interest even in details of my life that I often think only matter to me.



It was a wonderful week full of bible study, prayer and getting to know others in community. We have been back to the Community of the Cross for Family Camp twice since then, as well as other opportunities (me to a leadership week in 2006, and with Jacob again last summer to volunteer at Ascension Point). Each time has grown and encouraged us.

I loved watching Jacob reach out at Community of the Cross and join in putting hands on people in prayer, and wondered what it meant to him. This Christmas, at my brother-in-law's church, I put my hand up when they asked who had birthdays or anniversaries that week so they could pray a blessing on them. As a few people gathered around us, Jacob leaped up and put his hand on me to join in blessing us, and I again thought how glad I am that I risked asking to go to that first Family Camp at Community of the Cross.

Sandy Bassie, Board Trustee, Dunamis Fellowship Canada

FACILITATOR TRAINING



There will be Facilitator Training for the Dunamis Video Courses offered at the Dunamis Fellowship Canada Annual Meeting on May 3rd and in St. Thomas at Fellowship CRC on 19 April, 2008. The St. Thomas training will be starting at 9:30 a.m. till approximately 2:00 p.m. and lunch will be included and will be led by Barbara and Les Ferrier. Barbara is a member of the PRMI Board and Les is a member of the DFC Board.

Dunamis Fellowship Canada requires that trained Facilitators run the Video Courses so that high standards can be maintained. The Facilitator is a person who is familiar with the Dunamis teachings and has attended an Event and/or Video Course and is willing to select and equip other leaders to help guide a group as they experience the Holy Spirit during the classes. Each Facilitator also needs to be a member of Dunamis Fellowship International, and is renewed annually if the Facilitator wishes to continue with the commitment.

For more information and to register please contact Sheila Thomson, our Ministry Coordinator, at 519-821-3603 or by email at dfc@dunamisfellowshipcanada.org

IN ROADS IN INDONESIA



For two weeks in February I was part of a team which had been invited by the Gereja Masehi Injili di Minahasa (Minahasan Christian Evangelical Church) or GMIM to teach the "first of the Dunamis Projects: Gateways to Empowered Ministry". Usually when a Dunamis project is held those who attend are involved in the grassroots of the church. This was not the case in Indonesia. Instead, this conference was mandatory for all the pastors who were leaders of the 95 classes (or presbyteries) of the GMIM denomination. Each of these pastors has responsibility for between 15 to 20 other churches in their classis. They



were joined by the leaders within the denomination. There were some concerns at first about how the delegates would engage with the material seeing as they had to be there rather than being there because they wanted to be. But even the synod leaders were amazed at the level of engagement by the pastors. At previous gatherings the delegates would often leave early after the lunch and would avoid the afternoon program. But everyone stayed for the teaching we were presenting.

As the week went by we watched the Holy Spirit work to bring the theological understanding (the head) and the practical experience of the Holy Spirit (the heart) into harmony with each other. Several delegates who had expressed concern at the topic of the teaching testified that this teaching on the person and work of the Holy Spirit did fit with their theology. We watched the Holy Spirit fall on these leaders of the church as we prayed with them for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

During the second week we made visits to various churches and classis meetings to talk more about being empowered by the Holy Spirit and to teach on prayer and listening to God through the Scripture. There were also many opportunities to pray with pastors, elders, deacons and congregational members from the churches. It was a huge blessing to watch the pastors who we had prayed for the previous week move into empowered ministry as they prayed for those who came forward for prayer. People were very hungry for prayer ministry which is an indication of some of the need within this denomination.



The work continues as GMIM is looking to continue with the next five Dunamis Projects with the classis leaders and to look at forming a team which would be able to continue the teaching with other pastors in the denomination. At the same time there is a possibility that the Dunamis Project will also be able to be offered to a collection of 11 denominations within Indonesia of which GMIM is one member. Please continue to pray for this ministry as God begins to work through these pastors to bring revival to the church in Minahasa and then beyond to the region of Sulawesi and to the whole nation of Indonesia.

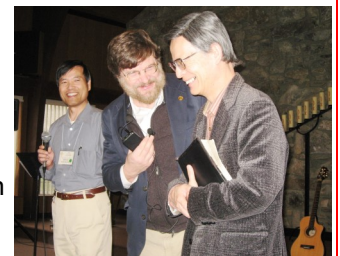
Martin Boardman, Board Trustee, Dunamis Fellowship Canada

DUNAMIS FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING



The annual meeting of Dunamis Fellowship International was held in Black Mountain on 16-21 January. The purpose of the Dunamis Fellowship is to Mobilize, Equip and Deploy God's people. Seventy leaders from the USA, Canada, Japan, Korea and the UK attended. The Canadian contingent included Sheila Thomson, Martin Boardman, Les and Barbara Ferrier.

Masaaki Tezuka who initiated it about 30 years ago. The events and activities included workshops or reports on international missions to Haiti, Indonesia, Nicaragua, China and Korea, improving the activities/programs of PRMI, reports from the UK, Canada and Korea. We had updates on the International Dunamis Schools in the UK, Black Mountain and Martin Boardman presented a report on the Third Wave Report of the CRC in Canada. There was also a memorable visit to the Community of the Cross to see the first accommodation building under construction.



Please note that all members of the Dunamis Fellowship are welcome to attend the Annual Meetings.

INTERCESSORY UPDATE



As I think about the ministry of DFC I am reminded of some of my favourite memories from childhood. These were the times I would go walking with my grandmother in the hills near her house. It took effort to climb up the hillside but once you made it to the top you were rewarded with a wonderful view. We would look out to over the landscape and see all the fields as well as the houses and the tiny cars going too and fro. It has taken effort to get to this point in the ministry of DFC but it feels like we are at the top of the hill and can look out at the potential for ministry in the future.

Our vision for the ministry is to see Dunamis Conferences and Courses offered across the country, from shore to shore, so that God may be glorified by churches and Christians in our land increasingly being ignited in the power of the Holy Spirit, to do all that Jesus commanded, to the glory of the Father! God has blessed us as we have moved forward with the ministry, we look forward to beginning a new conference track this fall, but we continue to need the support of people praying for the Board and for the ministry in general.

Our intercessory team is growing slowly, and is a vital part of the ministry of DFC. If you feel prompted by the Spirit to join this intercessory team or if you are running or plan to run a Dunamis video course, and would like us to lift you in prayer, please email us at: dfcintercessors@dunamisfellowship.org

Events to Watch For



Burlington Dunamis Conference VI – Evangelism – April 4 & 5, 2008

Ignite 1—Christ Community Church, Victoria, BC — April 12, 2008

Dunamis Video Course Facilitator Training—April 19, 2008

Ignite 3—Bethel CRC in Edmonton AB — April 25 to 27, 2008

Dunamis Fellowship Canada Annual Meeting—Meadowlands Fellowship CRC Ancaster—May 2 & 3, 2008

Dunamis Regional Conference—First Christian Reformed Church, London, Ontario— Fall 2008

Haiti Healing Dunamis Rescheduled



The Haiti Dunamis is a mission outreach of the Michigan Dunamis. The first three events have been offered, in cooperation with the Episcopal Church, with attendance growing from 40 to 120 lay leaders and seminary students. The fourth Dunamis, "Healing Prayer," is scheduled for **June 30 – July 6**, and a couple more team members are needed for intercession and ministry. Experience in healing prayer ministry is important and ability to speak French is preferred but not required. For more information on this mission outreach opportunity please contact Sheila at the DFC office.

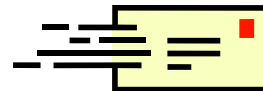
Donations

We really appreciate your donations, they not only support the events and courses in Canada, but also missions abroad, outreach in Canada and our part time office. Our office is responsible for newsletters, records, tax receipts, general staff work and being available for you.

With enough donations, we can provide financial assistance for Canadian DFI members going on missions abroad that are run by PRMI or DFC, individuals can apply to the DFC Board. We can also help to initiate events in churches across Canada and support the development of the video courses in cooperation with PRMI. We have enclosed an envelope for donations and for those who prefer to make donations online, we now have a 'donation button' on the Donation Page of our website.



Contact Information



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